

Agenda Item #17.A.3.



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: **Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program.**
Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Mary McHugh, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Private)

The Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program is presented for reconsideration of provisional approval. Additionally, the program requests approval to admit 20 students and two (2) alternates into a full - time day class commencing May 9, 2016, graduating June 12, 2017. This is not a replacement class. Extension of provisional approval is recommended.

The Board initially placed the program on provisional approval for the two-year period from November 9, 2012, through November 30, 2014. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates. At that time, the program's average annual pass rate was 47%.

On June 10 and 11, 2014, Board representatives conducted an unannounced onsite visit. Eight (8) violations were identified.

On November 21, 2014, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for three (3) months from November 21, 2014 to February 28, 2015. The Board directed the program to correct identified violations and submit documentation confirming their correction by December 15, 2014.

On February 13, 2015, the Board extended the program's provisional approval through February 28, 2016. In addition, the Board approved the program's request to admit 20 students commencing April 6, 2015, graduating May 20, 2016, only, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate on January 23, 2015.

Recommendations:

1. Extend Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program's provisional approval for one year from February 28, 2016 – February 27, 2017, and issue a notice identifying specific areas of non-compliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations.
2. Place the program on the agenda of the Board's **February 2017**, meeting for reconsideration of provisional approval.

3. Deny the program's request to admit 20 students into a full – time day class commencing on May 9, 2016, graduating June 12, 2017, only.
4. Continue the director's requirement to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation within 15 days of the commencement of a class.
5. Continue the program's requirement to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
6. Continue to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professionals Code, section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526.
7. Continue to require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.

Rationale: The Board placed the Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval on November 9, 2012, due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements regarding program pass rates. At that time, the program's average annual pass rate on the licensure examination was 47%, 27 percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate. The Board directed the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting its violations.

On June 10 and 11, 2014, Board representatives conducted an unannounced onsite visit. Eight (8) violations of the California Code of Regulations were identified. Currently, seven (7) of those violations have been corrected. To correct the outstanding violation regarding licensure pass rates, the program has developed an improvement plan, and implemented Virtual Assessment Technology Institute (virtual ATI®) to assist students and past graduates to remediate and prepare for the NCLEX-PN®.

Since placement on provisional approval, the program's average annual pass rates have consistently remained **below** state average annual pass rates. However, published examination statistics evidence incremental progress. Based on published examination statistics, the program's Quarter 3, 2015, average annual pass rate was **70%**. As such, the program's average annual pass rate rose **25** percentage points since placement on provisional approval. However, for the most recent quarter (October through December 2015), the program's average annual pass rate is **57%**, **15** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate and a **decrease** of 13 percentage points **below** Quarter 3 2015. As such, extension of provisional approval is recommended.

On November 20, 2015, the Board approved the program's admission of a class of 20 students commencing in January 2016, bringing the total number of approved students to 33. Due to the reoccurring decline in the average annual pass rates, it is prudent to assess the pass rates of the students who are scheduled to graduate in August 2016, prior to admission of an additional class.

Agenda Item 17.A.3.



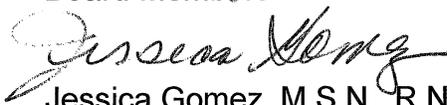
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DATE: January 25, 2016

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Jessica Gomez, M.S.N., R.N.
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program. Reconsideration of Provisional Approval; Consideration of Request to Admit Students (Director: Mary McHugh, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Private)

The Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program is presented for reconsideration of provisional approval. Additionally, the program requests approval to admit 20 students and two (2) alternates into a full - time day class commencing May 9, 2016, graduating June 12, 2017. This is not a replacement class. Extension of provisional approval is recommended.

The Board initially placed the program on provisional approval for the two-year period from November 9, 2012, through November 30, 2014. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates. At that time, the program's average annual pass rate was 47%.

On June 10 and 11, 2014, Board representatives conducted an unannounced onsite visit. Eight (8) violations were identified.

On November 21, 2014, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for three (3) months from November 21, 2014 to February 28, 2015. The Board directed the program to correct identified violations and submit documentation confirming their correction by December 15, 2014.

On February 13, 2015, the Board extended the program's provisional approval through February 28, 2016. In addition, the Board approved the program's request to admit 20 students commencing April 6, 2015, graduating May 20, 2016, only, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate on January 23, 2015.

History of Prior Board Actions

(See Attachment A, History of Board Action-)

Enrollment

The program offers a 42-week full – time course of instruction and a 60-week part – time course of instruction. The program is required to obtain approval by the full Board prior to the admission of students. The pattern of admissions for current and proposed classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current and proposed** student enrollment based on class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 63 students** from **March 2012 through February 2017**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
3/12 FT Day		14	12	12
6/12 FT Day		6	13	12 + 13 = 25
8/12 PT Eve		6	8	25 + 8 = 33
9/12 FT Day		15	15	33 + 15 = 48
2/13 FT Eve		15		48 + 15 = 63
	2/13 (3/12 FT Day Class)		-12	63 – 12 = 51
	5/13 (6/12 FT Day Class)		-13	51 – 13 = 38
	8/13 (9/12 FT Day Class)		-15	38 – 15 = 23
	12/13 (8/12 PT Eve Class)		-8	23 – 8 = 15
1/14 FT Day		15	7	15 + 7 = 22
	2/14 (2/13 FT Eve Class)		-15	22 – 15 = 7
	1/15 (1/14 FT Day Class)		-7	7 – 7 = 0
6/15 FT Day		14	13	0 + 13 = 13
1/16 FT Day		20	20	13 + 20 = 33
5/16 FT Day Proposed	7/18	20	20	33 + 20 = 53
	8/16 (6/15 FT Day Class)		-13	53 – 13 = 40
	3/17 (1/16 FT Day Class)		-20	40 – 20 = 20

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by Pearson VUE, and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," for the period October 2007 through December 2015, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical/Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN®), and the variance of the program's pass rates from state average annual pass rates for the past 33 quarters.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data							
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*		
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate [CCR §2530(I)]	Variance From State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2007	2	2	100%	76%	100%	76%	+24
Jan - Mar 2008	9	5	56%	76%	64%	76%	-12
Apr - June 2008	2	0	0%	75%	54%	75%	-21
Jul - Sep 2008	2	0	0%	70%	47%	74%	-27
Oct – Dec 2008	4	4	100%	73%	53%	73%	-20
Jan – Mar 2009	9	5	56%	70%	54%	72%	-18
Apr – Jun 2009	11	8	73%	71%	65%	70%	-5
Jul – Sep 2009	14	8	57%	74%	64%	72%	-8
Oct – Dec 2009	18	16	89%	76%	70%	73%	-3
Jan – Mar 2010	9	3	33%	76%	66%	74%	-8
Apr – Jun 2010	13	5	39%	74%	58%	75%	-17
Jul – Sep 2010	19	11	58%	76%	59%	75%	-16
Oct – Dec 2010	19	12	63%	77%	52%	76%	-24
Jan – Mar 2011	28	19	58%	80%	59%	77%	-18
Apr – Jun 2011	7	2	29%	71%	60%	76%	-16
Jul – Sep 2011	16	6	38%	74%	56%	76%	-20
Oct – Dec 2011	8	3	38%	74%	51%	75%	-25
Jan – Mar 2012	17	7	41%	77%	38%	74%	-36
Apr – Jun 2012	9	5	56%	72%	42%	74%	-32
Jul – Sep 2012	19	10	53%	74%	47%	74%	-27
Oct – Dec 2012	9	1	11%	70%	42%	74%	-32
Jan – Mar 2013	4	1	25%	75%	42%	73%	-31
Apr – Jun 2013	12	7	58%	78%	42%	73%	-31
Jul – Sep 2013	9	4	44%	75%	38%	75%	-37
Oct – Dec 2013	7	2	29%	76%	44%	76%	-32
Jan – Mar 2014	15	7	47%	74%	47%	76%	-29

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data							
Quarterly Statistics				Annual Statistics*			
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate [CCR §2530(l)]	Variance From State Average Annual Pass Rate
Apr – Jun 2014	6	4	67%	67%	46%	73%	-27
Jul – Sept 2014	10	5	50%	72%	47%	73%	-26
Oct – Dec 2014	7	6	86%	72%	58%	72%	-14
Jan – Mar 2015	7	4	57%	73%	63%	71%	-8
Apr – Jun 2015	4	3	75%	69%	64%	72%	-8
Jul – Sep 2015	2	1	50%	73%	70%	72%	-2
Oct – Dec 2015	1	0	0%	75%	57%	72%	-15

*The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

California Code of Regulations section 2530(l) states:

“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of approved vocational nursing schools for the same period.”

This data substantiates the program’s compliance for seven (7) of the past 33 quarters (21.21%) and noncompliance for 78.79%).

Based on the most recent data available (October - December 2015), the program's average annual pass rate is **57%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is **72%**. The average annual pass rate for the Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program is **15** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534(d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor."

The program’s Board - approved faculty totals nine (9), including the program director. One (1) is a teacher assistant, five (5) instructors are available to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 63 students, five (5) instructors are required for clinical supervision. Therefore, the current number of faculty is adequate for the current and proposed enrollment.

Section 2534(b) of the California Code of Regulations states:

“Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2533. There must be available for student assignment, an adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught.”

Board files substantiate the approval of clinical facilities adequate as to type and variety of patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives in accordance with Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

Summary and Status of Program Deficiencies

As noted previously, the Board placed the program on provisional approval on November 9, 2012 for two (2) years, due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements relative to program pass rates. At that time, the program's average annual pass rate was 47%. The Board required the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate; and, required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations.

On June 10 and 11, 2014, Board representatives conducted an unannounced onsite visit. Eight (8) violations of the California Code of Regulations were identified. **On June 10, 2014, the Board approved a new program director.**

On June 19, 2014, the Board sent a *Notice* to the director, delineating deficiencies identified during the inspection and required corrections

On July 17, 2014, the director submitted a plan to correct one (1) of the identified violations. Seven (7) violations remained uncorrected

On November 21, 2014, the Board extended the program's provisional approval for three (3) months through February 28, 2015, and Board directed the program to complete the following actions by December 15, 2014.

- Correct deficiencies identified during the onsite visit and submit documentation confirming corrections.
- Submit a follow – up report that includes a review of the prior comprehensive analysis, effectiveness of employed interventions, revisions to the original plan, and timeline for implementation and correction.

On December 16, 2014, the director submitted to the Board the required follow-up report confirming the implementation of steps to correct identified violations. All violations were addressed.

On January 7, 2015, the director submitted the program's action plan to increase NCLEX-PN® pass rates (see Attachment B). Implemented actions included:

- **Pre-Admission**
 - Pre-Application Orientation-Sets expectations that are congruent with the realities of nursing school.
 - Application Process.
 - Tests applicant's readiness in reading, math, and English skills.
 - Interview with Director or faculty.
 - Informed students about Mandatory Study Hall – 8 hours per week.
- **Post-Admission**
 - Post-Admission Orientation.
 - Review clinical requirements (background checks, immunizations, and health tips).
 - Review “expectation setting” information regarding time management and study skills.
 - Admission and Orientation fees will include cost of taking the NCLEX/PN® exam-Prevents delay of taking NCLEX/PN® due to lack of funds.
- **Course of Study Interventions**
 - Study Hall.
 - Students who maintain a 90% average are excused from mandatory study hall.
 - Students are required to maintain a grade of 75% or higher to pass theory courses.
 - Director must ensure faculty do not inflate grades and pass students who have not mastered theory or clinical content.
 - Strict adherence to the curriculum is enforced through:
 - Classroom and Clinical Observation.
 - Inspection of lesson plans.
 - Talking with students.
 - Reviewing tests and examinations.
 - Integration of Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI®) learning support materials with classroom and clinical learning.
 - Reading assignments should include both text and ATI® books.
 - Pharmacology tutorials should be assigned to match lecture content.
 - ATI® practice tests may be used as homework or in-class quizzes depending on instructor's discretion.
 - ATI® proctored tests should be administered as content is covered in the classroom.
 - Any student who receives below 80% will be placed on remediation.
 - All courses will have a comprehensive final exam worth 25% of total grade. Students receive no points for an examination scored below 75%.
 - Students with a course grade less 75% must repeat the course.
- **End of Program Interventions**
 - Final examination of the program is the ATI® Predictor Test.
 - Students are required to achieve a grade of 75% or higher.
 - Students are provided first practice test 1-2 months prior to graduation.
 - Results are used to guide remediation for final examination.
 - Students who fail the final examination must use the Virtual Assessment Technology Institute program to remediate.
 - Students have a maximum of three (3) months to complete virtual ATI®.
 - Student have access to the school computers and study hall.
 - Faculty or Director communicate with the ATI® tutor and monitor students' progress.

- At the end of three (3) months if not actively studying or near completion of the virtual ATI® program, the student will be dropped from the program.

On February 13, 2015, the Board approved the program's admission of a class of 20 students to commence April 6, 2015.

On September 4, 2015, the Director reported to the Board that the program had offered the virtual ATI® program to all past graduates; all past graduates who completed the virtual ATI® remediation passed the NCLEX-PN® on the first attempt; and graduates who did not take advantage of the remediation continue to fail. Additionally, the director reported that the program paid the NCLEX/PN® registration fee for all graduates who scheduled the test upon completion of the virtual ATI® program. (See Attachment C).

On November 20, 2015, the Board approved the program's request to admit 20 students into a full – time day class commencing on January 4, 2016, graduating March 3, 2017, only, and required the director to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation within 15 days of the commencement of the class.

In summary, a total of eight (8) violations of the California Code of Rules and Regulations, were identified during the unannounced program inspection conducted June 10 and 11, 2014. The program's director was approved on June 10, 2014, during the onsite inspection. The director has submitted reports confirming the implementation of steps to correct or address identified violations.

At the time of placement on provisional approval, **November 9, 2012**, the program's average annual pass rate was **47%**. Since that time, the program's average annual pass rate has varied with its lowest pass rate of **38%** reported for **Quarter 3 - 2013**. The program's Quarter 3 - 2015 average annual pass rate was **70%**, **2** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate of 72%. However, it is important to note that the **Quarter 4 - 2015**, pass rate has decreased to **57%**, **15** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate.

Recommendations:

1. Extend Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program's provisional approval for one year from February 28, 2016 – February 27, 2017, and issue a notice identifying specific areas of non-compliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations.
2. Place the program on the agenda of the Board's **February 2017**, meeting for reconsideration of provisional approval.
3. Deny the program's request to admit 20 students into a full – time day class commencing on May 9, 2016, graduating June 12, 2017, only.
4. Continue the director's requirement to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation within 15 days of the commencement of a class.

5. Continue the program's requirement to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
6. Continue to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professionals Code, section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526.
7. Continue to require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.

Rationale: The Board placed the Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval on November 9, 2012, due to noncompliance with regulatory requirements regarding program pass rates. At that time, the program's average annual pass rate on the licensure examination was 47%, 27 percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate. The Board directed the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting its violations.

On June 10 and 11, 2014, Board representatives conducted an unannounced onsite visit. Eight (8) violations of the California Code of Regulations were identified. Currently, seven (7) of those violations have been corrected. To correct the outstanding violation regarding licensure pass rates, the program has developed an improvement plan, and implemented Virtual Assessment Technology Institute (virtual ATI[®]) to assist students and past graduates to remediate and prepare for the NCLEX-PN[®].

Since placement on provisional approval, the program's average annual pass rates have consistently remained **below** state average annual pass rates. However, published examination statistics evidence incremental progress. Based on published examination statistics, the program's Quarter 3, 2015, average annual pass rate was **70%**. As such, the program's average annual pass rate rose **25** percentage points since placement on provisional approval. However, for the most recent quarter (October through December 2015), the program's average annual pass rate is **57%**, **15** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate and a **decrease** of 13 percentage points **below** Quarter 3 2015. As such, extension of provisional approval is recommended.

On November 20, 2015, the Board approved the program's admission of a class of 20 students commencing in January 2016, bringing the total number of approved students to 33. Due to the reoccurring decline in the average annual pass rates, it is prudent to assess the pass rates of the students who are scheduled to graduate in August 2016, prior to admission of an additional class.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Actions.

Attachment B: Program Correspondence Received January 7, 2015.

Attachment C: Program Correspondence Received September 4, 2015.

Attachment D: Draft Notice of Extension of Provisional Approval

Agenda Item #17.A.3., Attachment A

ANGELES COLLEGE OF NURSING VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

History of Prior Board Actions

- On November 2, 2006, the Executive Officer approved the Angeles College of Nursing's request to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 15 students on November 6, 2006, only; and approved the program curriculum for 1557 hours, including 590 theory, and 967 clinical hours.
- **On March 28, 2007, the Board approved a new program director.**
- On May 21, 2007, the assigned consultant inspected the program to determine compliance with Article 5 of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations. Four (4) violations were noted.
- On July 10, 2007, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for the Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program for the period from July 10, 2007, through July 9, 2011, and the Board will issue a certificate accordingly; approved the program to admit a full-time class of 15 students to start on October 22, 2007, only, to **replace** students graduating on October 12, 2007; approved the program to admit an additional full-time class of 15 students to start on July 23, 2007, only; and approved the program to admit a part-time class of 15 students on August 6, 2007, only.
- On February 8, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 15 students commencing February 19, 2008, only, with an anticipated graduation date of March 20, 2009.
- On March 4, 2008, the Executive Officer approved the following requests:
 1. Request to admit a part-time class of 15 students commencing April 15, 2008, with an anticipated graduation date of August 22, 2009.
 2. Request to admit a part-time class of 15 students commencing November 24, 2008, with an anticipated graduation date of March 27, 2010.
 3. Request to admit a full-time class of 15 students commencing May 12, 2008, with an anticipated graduation date of May 28, 2009.
 4. Request to admit a full-time class of 15 students commencing August 11, 2008, with an anticipated graduation date of August 14, 2009.
 5. Request to admit a full-time class of 15 students commencing November 17, 2008, with an anticipated graduation date of November 20, 2009.
 6. Request for ongoing admissions of four full-time classes of 15 students per year, to replace graduating classes; and two part-time classes of 15 students per year, to replace graduating classes.

- **On April 3, 2008, the Board approved a new Director**
- On October 14, 2011, the program was notified that the program's average annual pass rate had fallen below ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past five (5) quarters.
- On November 4, 2011, the Board received the program's plan to increase pass rates.
- On February 22, 2012, the program was notified that the program's average annual pass rate had fallen below ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past seven (7) quarters.
- On May 7, 2012, the program was notified that the program's average annual pass rate had fallen below ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past eight (8) quarters. The program was required to submit a plan to correct the deficiency by June 18, 2012.
- **On May 22, 2012, a new director was approved by the Board.**
- On June 7, 2012, the Board received the program's plan to increase its licensure pass rates.
- On August 7, 2012, the program was notified that the program's average annual pass rate had fallen below ten (10) percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the past nine (9) quarters. The program was required to submit a plan to correct the deficiency by August 24, 2012.
- On August 17, 2012, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.
- On September 20, 2012, the Board received correspondence from the program director and eighteen (18) copies of the requested information.
- On November 9, 2012, the Board placed the Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the two-year period from November 9, 2012, through November 30, 2014, and issued a notice to the program to identify specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations; **and**, rescinded approval of the program's ongoing admissions; **and**, Approved the program's admission of 15 students into an evening class beginning on January 21, 2013, only, graduating May 21, 2014, to **replace** students who graduated October 4, 2012, **pending** submission of a revised curriculum, by November 12, 2012, and Board approval of the new curriculum; **and**, delegated to the Executive Officer discretionary authority to approve the program's part – time and full – time curriculum; **and**, required the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board; **and**, required the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate; and, required the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate

incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval; **and**, required the program to submit follow-up reports in nine months, but no later than August 1, 2013, and 21 months, but no later than August 1, 2014. The reports must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis.

- a. Admission Criteria.
- b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
- c. Terminal Objectives
- d. Curriculum Objectives
- e. Instructional Plan.
- f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
- g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
- h. Textbooks.
- i. Attendance Policy.
- j. Remediation Policy.
- k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
- n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
- o. Current Enrollment; **and**,

Required the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2526; **and**, advised the program that failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval; **and**, placed the program on the November 2014 Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

- On February 13, 2013, the Executive Officer approved the program's curriculum for 1800 hours, including 750 theory and 1050 clinical hours for the full-time program; **and**, continued to require the program to obtain prior Board approval to admit students.
- On March 11, 2013, the assigned consultant forwarded correspondence requesting submission of two (2) copies and one (1) CD or Flash drive of pertinent documents, plan, and subsequent actions taken to correct identified problems that they desire Board members to consider.
- On March 13, 2013, the Board received correspondence from the program director and two (2) copies and a CD of the requested information.
- On May 10, 2013, the Board denied the program's request to admit a day class of 15 students on May 20, 2013; completing on May 28, 2014, **replacing** the class that will graduate February 22, 2013; **and** denied the program's request to admit an evening class of 15 students on June 25, 2013; completing on November 22, 2014, **replacing** the class that will graduate on March 31, 2013; **and** required the program to continue to obtain prior Board approval to admit students.

- On July 31, 2013, the director submitted the required comprehensive analysis.
- On November 6, 2013, the Board approved the program's request to admit a day class of 15 students on January 20, 2014, only; completing on January 16, 2015, **replacing** the class that graduated August 29, 2013; **and** denied the program's request to admit an evening class of 15 students on March 4, 2014; completing on August 21, 2015 **replacing** the class that will graduate on December 14, 2013; **and** continued to require the program to obtain prior Board approval to admit students.
- **On June 10, 2014, the Board approved a new director.**
- On June 10 and 11, 2014 an unannounced site visit was conducted. Eight (8) violations of the California Code of Regulations were identified.
- On July 11, 2014 the Board received the Director's plan to correct identified violations.
- On November 21, 2014 the Board extended Angeles College of Nursing Vocational Nursing Program's provisional approval for the three (3) month period from December 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015; **and** denied the program's request for approval to admit a class of 20 full - time students commencing on February 9, 2015, only, graduating February 26, 2016, to replace students scheduled to graduate January 13, 2015; **and** required the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board; and, Continue to require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate; **and** continued to require the program to correct deficiencies identified during the onsite visit and submit documentation confirming correction no later than December 15, 2014; **and** required the program to submit a follow – up report by December 15, 2014. The report must include a review of the prior comprehensive analysis, effectiveness of employed interventions, revisions to the original plan, and timeline for implementation and correction; **and** continued to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526; and, continued to require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval; failure, to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval; **and** placed the program on the February 2015 Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
- On December 16, 2014 the Board received the required follow-up report from the director.
- On February 13, 2015 the Board extended the program's provisional approval for the one (1) year period from March 1, 2015 to February 28, 2016. Approved the program's request to admit 20 students commencing on April 6, 2015, graduating May 20, 2016, only, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate on January 23, 2015. Required the program director to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation by April 17, 2015. Required the program to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board. Continued to require the program to bring its average

annual pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State average annual pass rate. Continued to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526. Continued to require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval. Failure to make any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval. Additionally, the Board placed the program on the **February 2016** Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.

- On November 20, 2015 the Board **approved** the program's request to admit 20 students into a full – time day class commencing on January 4, 2016, graduating March 3, 2017, only; **and, required** the program director to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation within 15 days of the commencement of the class. **Continued** the program's requirement to admit no additional students without prior approval by the full Board; **and, continued** to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code, section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2526; **and, continued** to require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval; **and, continued** the program's placement on the agenda of the Board's **February 2016**, meeting, for reconsideration of provisional approval.

AGENDA ITEM #17.A.3., ATTACHMENT B

BVNPT Recd 1/7/15
Via mail jg

MCHUGH NCLEX SUCCESS PLAN[®]

SUMMARY OF PLAN ACTIONS

I. PRE-ADMISSION

- a. Pre-Application Orientation—Set expectations that are congruent with the realities of nursing school
 1. Explain the amount of time class and clinical require
 2. Explain the necessity of allocating 30-40 hours per week to out-of-classroom study and homework.
 3. Explain the travel requirements to get to clinicals and class regularly
 4. Explain the attendance requirements
 5. Explain dress codes, including hair, nails and clothing expectations
 6. Financial obligations and needs during nursing school (including meeting with financial aid advisor)
 7. Explain clinical site requirements for a Criminal Background Check, immunizations, disease testing, etc.
 8. Explain physical demands of nursing school and a nursing career
- b. Application Process—Test applicant's readiness for nursing school¹
 1. Reading Comprehension Requirements
 2. Minimum Math skills
 3. English skills for ESL applicants
 4. Criminal background check to assure the student will be acceptable to our clinical sites.
- c. Application Process—Interview with Dean/Director or Faculty
 1. Evaluate applicant's likelihood of succeeding:
 - i. Location of any piercings or body art in places that can be covered? Willing to remove piercings/cover body art for clinical?
 - ii. Assess applicant's ability to understand speech, and to speak and be understood.
 - iii. Assess applicant's reasons for wanting to attend nursing school: Are they realistic? Are they congruent with personal growth into a professional, caring nurse?
 - iv. Assess applicant's understanding of the physical, financial, and time requirements to succeed in nursing school, and applicant's resources to fulfill those requirements.
 - v. Appropriate behavior and positive attitude?
- d. Special Intervention—Study Hall Requirement
If allowed by the Board of Nursing & Accreditation Agency, all students should have a mandatory 1 day (8 hour) study hall every week. This strategy gives them dedicated study time at the school where they are not interrupted by TV, friends,

¹ With a Mission to serve low income and disadvantaged students, a school may want to offer pre-nursing courses for students who don't pass the tests if the problem appears to be a lack of HS knowledge (e.g. biology, chemistry, algebra). Or it may be advisable to refer a really dedicated applicant to remediation courses in reading, math, etc., in the community.

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video games, and other distractions. The biggest reason for student failure in nursing school is inadequate study time, and this intervention has saved many students from failing out of their program.

II. POST-ADMISSION ORIENTATION

a. Post-Admission Orientation (special success content)

1. Review of clinical requirements (background check, immunizations, health tests)
2. Review all “expectation setting” information and play the following two videos for them:
 - i. Time Management in Nursing School:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMDZ6oHBwEo&feature=youtu.be>
 - ii. Study Skills:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7icCp9FGro&feature=youtu.be>
3. Admission/Orientation fees shall include the cost of taking the NCLEX exam so that graduates do not delay testing due to lack of funds. Note: It must be realized that some students graduate with so little money that they simply cannot acquire the funds to pay to take NCLEX, and thus they greatly reduce their chances of passing the test by waiting months (or even years!) to test. Putting aside the fact that someone who has not worked as a licensed nurse for so long is unlikely to be competent even if they pass the NCLEX, the reality is that postponing the test for 4 or more months after graduation greatly reduces the probability of passing.

III. COURSE OF STUDY INTERVENTIONS

- a. Students who maintain a 90% average in their courses should be excused from the mandatory study hall, but should they score lower than a 90% on any test/quiz/exam, they are required to come back to study hall and must stay in study hall for the remainder of that term. If their grade comes back up and their grade is an A for the term, they can be excused from study hall the following term, subject to the grade average conditions.
- b. Rigor of the course of study in both Theory and Clinical: The minimum grade to pass a Theory course must be 75% or higher. (Some schools are setting it as high as 78% or 80%). The Director must be vigilant to ensure faculty do not inflate grades and pass students who have not mastered the course content and skills. If the clinical has a numeric grade, that grade must also be 75% or higher. However, it is recommended that Clinical be graded as either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory, and Unsatisfactory may be the result of excessive absences, failure to master one or more nursing procedures, or inability to safely and effectively perform the entire nursing process as required in the course.
- c. Strict adherence to the curriculum: The Director must be vigilant to ensure that all faculty follow the approved curriculum. This can be done via direct classroom or clinical observations during faculty evaluations, inspection of lecture outlines and slides, talking with students, and reviewing tests and examinations.

AGENDA ITEM #17.A.3., ATTACHMENT B

- d. Integration of ATI learning support materials with classroom and clinical learning experiences:
 - 1. Pharmacology Made Easy shall be required as part of the first pharmacology course (RNs) or in Term I (VNs) as they first begin studying pharmacology.
 - 2. Reading assignments should include relevant sections of both the course text and the ATI books.
 - 3. Pharmacology tutorials should be assigned so that the tutorial matches lecture content. All pharmacology tutorials must be assigned during the curriculum.
 - 4. ATI Practice tests may be used as either homework “how am I doing” exercises, or as in-class quizzes as the instructor chooses.
 - 5. The ATI Proctored tests should be administered whenever the content is covered in the curriculum. If possible, the instructor may want to include proctored tests as part of the course grade. For example, at the end of the Maternity module, the Maternity proctored test can be used as the graded test for that content.
- e. Remediation Program: Even though 75% is the minimum passing grade, students who earn a grade below 80% on a test should be placed in remediation. Grades between 75-79% are quite low and borderline for failing, and these students need remediation. This accomplishes three goals:
 - 1. It sends a clear message that low performance is a problem and has consequences by putting them on notice they are at risk for failure. This message may get the attention of some students as to the need for further study.
 - 2. It requires the instructor and student to sit down together and create a written remediation plan, which if followed, should lead to student success in the course.
 - 3. It provides strong, written evidence of the teacher’s and school’s early intervention efforts to help the student succeed should the student fail the course.
- f. All courses shall have a comprehensive final exam. This is necessary because otherwise, students are likely to cram for exams rather than studying steadily throughout the term. The Final exam is to be worth 25% of the total grade and students receive no points toward grade if they fail the exam (i.e. grades of 74% and lower = 0 points toward grade). Thus, students cannot pass the term/course unless they can demonstrate mastery of the overall course content by passing the final exam.
- g. To pass a course (or term), students must earn a passing grade in both Theory and Clinical. Failing Clinical means the student fails the course or term, just as failing Theory means the student fails the course or term.
- h. If a student repeats a course, the student must retake both the Clinical and Theory components together. No student may repeat just the Theory component or just the Clinical component.

IV. END OF PROGRAM INTERVENTIONS

AGENDA ITEM #17.A.3., ATTACHMENT B

- a. The final exam in the last course in the program must be the ATI predictor test. As with all final exams in the program, the student must pass it with a raw score grade of 75% or higher, which translates to a 95% or higher probability of passing NCLEX on the first attempt.
- b. To prepare for the final exam, students should be given their first practice test 1-2 month before graduation. The results of this test should be used to guide their review and remediation.
- c. Students that do not pass the final exam by the end of the last course shall be offered one final chance to pass the program and graduate. They are required to actively use the Virtual ATI (VATI) program to remediate and bring their knowledge up to an adequate level. They will be given a maximum of 3 months to complete the ATI Review, and the school's computer spaces and/or study hall should be made available. The student should be strongly encouraged to come to the school to conduct his/her VATI work because that gives the student the best probability of succeeding. A faculty member or the Director should be assigned to communicate with the VATI tutor to monitor the student's progress.
- d. If, at the end of the 3 months, the student is not working on the review, the student should be dismissed from the program without graduating. He/she will have to file an appeal with the appeals committee if he/she wants to be reinstated, given an extension, and have a chance to graduate.
- e. If, at the end of the 3 months, the student is making progress on the review, but has not quite completed it, one 3 month extension may be granted.
- f. Our accreditation agency gives students up to 150% of their program time to complete and graduate, (unless a student appeals and his/her appeal is granted). Therefore, a 6 month extension is all the time the student may have to pass, without an appeal approved by the School's Appeal committee.

AGENDA ITEM #17.A.3., ATTACHMENT C



September 4, 2015

Ms. Jessica Gomez
Nursing Education Consultant
Board of Vocational Nursing & Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833

Angeles College would like to request permission to admit an additional cohort of full time, day students in addition to Cohort 35 which graduates on July 22, 2016. We request a start date of January 4, 2016 with an anticipated graduation date of March 3, 2017. We are requesting 20 students with two alternates.

We now have evidence of the success of the changes made to the curriculum in 2013 as well as the changes made in 2014 to admission and progression criteria, and the support to former students who had graduated but not passed the NCLEX=PN. Our pass rate has been in compliance for the first two quarters (6 months) of 2015. (The 3rd quarter still has almost a month to go so obviously the results are not available.

Specifically, all former graduates that took advantage of our free NCLEX review program, specifically the ATI Virtual Tutor program, passed the NCLEX on the first attempt. It should be noted that all of those graduates had been out of school for over 2 years when they tested and none would have been predicted to pass without the intense remediation we provided at our expense. (To ensure these graduates did not again delay taking the NCLEX, we also paid their PearsonVue fee for them and had them scheduled their test at that time.)

To date, 3 of our most recent graduates have tested and all passed on the first attempt. Two more are scheduled to test and just achieved higher than a 95% probability of passing on the ATI predictor test. The final 3 students are completing their Virtual ATI review and have been told they must complete it by September 31st. The fact is that so far, 100% of our most recent graduates that tested passed on the first attempt. We hope the Board considers this sufficient evidence of improvement to allow us to admit a new cohort in January.

Summary of requested Cohort (Cohort 35):

Start Date: 1/4/2016
Graduation Date: 3/3/2017
Number in Cohort: 20
Alternates: 2
Cohort type: Full time, Day class

Sincerely yours,

Mary L. McHugh, PhD, RN
Director of Nursing

Agenda Item #17.A.3., Attachment D

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.



Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95833-2945
Phone 916-263-7800 Fax 916-263-7855 Web www.bvnpt.ca.gov

CERTIFIED MAIL

February X, 2016

Mary McHugh, Director
Vocational Nursing Program
Angeles College
3440 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 310
Los Angeles CA, 90010

Subject: Notice of Extension of Provisional Approval

Dear Ms. McHugh,

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on February 5, 2016, the Angeles College, Vocational Nursing Program's provisional approval has been extended for the one year period from February 28, 2016, through February 27, 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain the areas of noncompliance identified and the corrections required of your program to avoid losing approval completely.

Once you have reviewed this letter, please sign and return the enclosed "Acknowledgement of Change in Approval Status" form by **XXX, 2016**.

AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE (VIOLATIONS(S))

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations,

"The Board may place any program on provisional approval when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this Chapter and in Section 2526..."

Section 2530(l) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states:

"The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the

The program pass rates for the Angeles College, Vocational Nursing Program for the past 24 quarters are set forth in the following table:

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Pass Rates			
Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate	Variance from State Annual Average Pass Rate
Jan – Mar 2010	74%	66%	-8
Apr – Jun 2010	75%	58%	-17
Jul – Sep 2010	75%	59%	-16
Oct – Dec 2010	76%	52%	-24
Jan – Mar 2011	77%	59%	-18
Apr – Jun 2011	76%	60%	-16
Jul – Sep 2011	76%	56%	-20
Oct – Dec 2011	75%	51%	-24
Jan – Mar 2012	74%	38%	-36
Apr – Jun 2012	74%	42%	-32
Jul – Sep 2012	74%	47%	-27
Oct – Dec 2012	74%	42%	-32
Jan – Mar 2013	73%	42%	-31
Apr – Jun 2013	73%	42%	-31
Jul – Sep 2013	74%	38%	-37
Oct – Dec 2013	76%	44%	-32
Jan – Mar 2014	76%	47%	-29
Apr – Jun 2014	73%	46%	-26
Jul – Sep 2014	73%	47%	-26
Oct – Dec 2014	72%	58%	-14
Jan – Mar 2015	71%	63%	-8
Apr – Jun 2015	72%	64%	-8
Jul – Sep 2015	72%	70%	-2
Oct – Dec 2015	72%	57%	-15

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. Continue to require the program to maintain its average annual pass rate at no more than ten percentage points below the state average annual pass rates.
2. Continue to require the program to admit no additional classes unless approved by the full Board.
3. Continue the director's requirement to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation within 15 days of the commencement of a class.

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4. Continue to require the program to comply with all approval standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's Regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2526.
5. Continue to require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress, the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
6. Failure to take these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.

FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **February 2017**, Board Meeting agenda, at which point the Board may revoke or extend the program's approval. If you have additional information that you wish considered beyond the required corrections listed on page 3, you must submit this documentation by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to the Board Meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be advised that, pursuant to the Board's regulations, the program will not be authorized to admit new classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The established pattern of admissions approved by the Board is as follows: **Approval by the full Board is required prior to the admission of additional students.**

In the event your program is required to submit any report(s) as a corrective action pursuant to this notice, such reports are required in addition to any other reports required pursuant to section 2527 of the Board's regulations.

The program may not advertise that it has full approval, and should take steps to correct any ongoing advertisements or publications in that regard.

A copy of title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 2526.1, regarding provisional approval is attached for your reference. A complete copy of the Board's laws and regulations can be found on the Board's web site at www.bvnpt.ca.gov.

Angeles College
Vocational Nursing Program
Notice of Change in Approval Status
February X, 2016
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Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,

JOHN BROOKS
Acting Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: Board Members

JB: dgj